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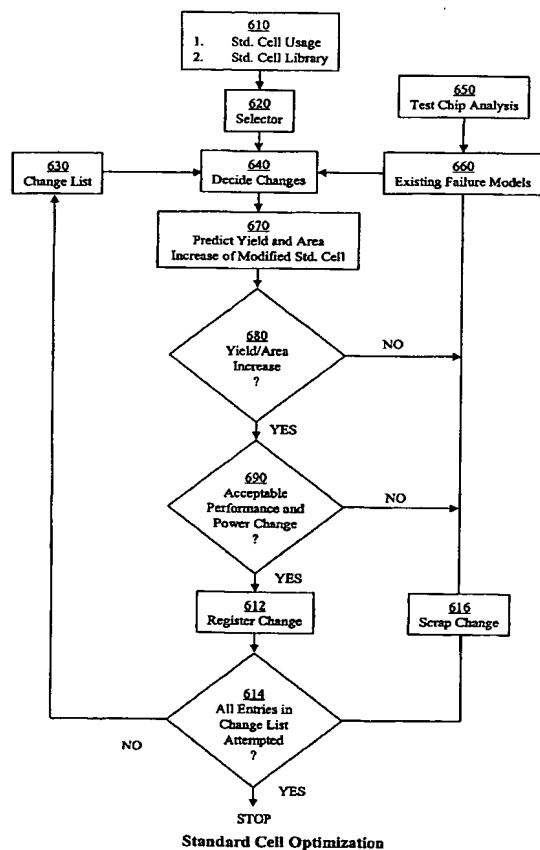
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **PDF SOLUTIONS, INC.** [US/US]; 333 West San Carlos Street, Suite 700, San Jose, CA 95110 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **CIPLICKAS, Dennis** [US/US]; 2441 Schubert Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124 (US); **DAVIS, Joe** [DE/US]; Frottmaningerstrasse

19, Unterschleissheim 85716 (DE). **HESS, Christopher** [DE/US]; 320 South Overlook Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583 (US). **LEE, Sherry** [US/US]; 935 Wren Drive, San Jose, CA 95125 (US). **Malavasi, Enrico** [US/US]; 1371 Ormonde Way, Mountain View, CA 94043 (US). **MOHAMMAD, Abdulmobeen** [IN/US]; 180 Elm Court #1808, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (US). **RADOJCIC, Ratibor** [US/US]; 850 Beech Street Unit 610, San Diego, CA 92101 (US). **STINE, Brian** [US/US]; Ebisu Garden Terrace #1503, Mita 1-4-3, Meguro-ku, Tokyo-to 153-0062 (US). **VALLISHAYEE, Rakesh** [IN/US]; 6338 Nepo Drive, San Jose, CA 95119 (US). **ZANELLA, Stefano** [IT/US]; 3200 Payne Avenue #724, San Jose, CA 95117 (US). **DRAGONE, Nicola** [IT/IT]; Via Penella 37, Vobarno, Brescia 125079 (IT). **GUARDIANI, Carlo** [IT/IT]; Via Seghe, San Tommaso 7/A, Verona (VR) 37129 (IT). **QUARANTELLI, Michel** [IT/IT]; Via Giovanni XXIII, 10, Noceto, (PR) 143015 (IT). **TONELLO, Stefano** [IT/IT]; Via 4 Novembre 14, Breganze, (VI) 36042 (IT).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **YIELD IMPROVEMENT**



(57) Abstract: An integrated circuit is designed to improve yield when manufacturing the integrated circuit, by obtaining a design element from a set of design elements used in designing integrated circuits (610). A variant design element is created based on the obtained design element, where a feature of the obtained design element is modified to create the variant design element (670). A yield to area ratio for the variant design element is determined (680). If the yield to area ratio of the variant design element is greater than a yield to area ratio of the obtained design element, the variant design element is retained to be used in designing the integrated circuit (612).



ANIRUDDHA, Joshi [US/US]; 8 Santa Cruz Aisle,
Irvine, CA 92606 (US).

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(74) **Agent:** YIM, Peter, J.; Morrison & Foerster LLP, 425
Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-2482 (US).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL : 716/2, 4, 5

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 716/2, 4, 5

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,946,214 A (HEAVLIN et al.) 31 August 1999 (31.08.1999), column 2, lines 13-55; column 3 line 5 to column 8, line 38; Figs. 1-6.	1-14, 16-22, 26, 34-36, 37-47, 49-53, 57, 65-67
A, P	US 2003/0004679 A1 (TRYON, III et al.) 02 January 2003 (02.01.2003), entire document	1-67
A, P	US 2003/0080960 A1 (CHANG) 01 May 2003 (01.05.2003), entire document.	1-67



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document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&"

document member of the same patent family

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P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Matthew Smith

Telephone No. (703) 308-1782

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST, IEEE

search terms: yield, improv\$5, ratio, area, change, manufacturing, failure, redundancy, memory